State of Maharashtra & Ors. have adjudicated on some of the questions having a bearing on the draft legislation.

Facilities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2727. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities being given to the students under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan at present;

(b) whether Government propose to review the distribution of free text books to all the students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a programme for universalisation of elementary education in a time bound manner. It seeks to povide *inter-alia,* school infrastructure, teachers, textbook to SC/ST children and all girls, as well as inputs like regular training for teachers and the community, to promote enrolment, retention and improved learning levels amongst children in the 6-14 age group.

Stenography specialists as professors

† 2728. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provisions for appointment of specialists in stenography as visiting lecturers or professors in polytechnics;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the All India Technical Education Council is no responsible for under valuing this subject; and

(c) the reasons for not giving recognition to the specialists of this subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The appointment of specialists as visiting faculty in polytechnics is the concern of the respective States where they operate.

Hindi Stenography in Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University

† 2729. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University has received a proposal to include Hindi Stenography in its curriculum; and

(b) if so, the date on which this proposal was received and the action taken by the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to information furnished by the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Viswavidyalaya, Wardha, no proposal for inclusion of Hindi Stenography in the curriculum has been received by the University.

(b) Does not arise.

Book of Shorthand and Typing in NIOS

2730. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NIOS feels that the single book prepared for the subjects of Shorthand and Typewriting is sufficient to achieve the target at Senior Secondary Level;

(b) if not, the reason for which the books approved by the CBSE/ NCERT etc. submitted to the NIOS, have not been recommended to the students or NIOS affiliated vocational institutions; and

(c) the steps NIOS would take to help the students in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.